

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

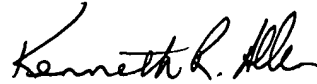
The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 6 and 7. The Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 and has explicitly amended claims 3-6, 8-9, all without prejudice to further prosecution by way of a continuation application in order to place this application in condition for allowance. The Applicant notes that the outstanding rejection based on newly-cited art is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application, namely claims 3, 5 and 6-9, as amended, are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth R. Allen
Reg. No. 27,301

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (650) 326-2400
Fax: (650) 326-2422
KRA:deh:
60113678 v1